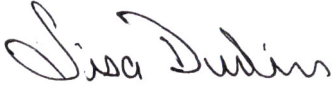
 <p style="text-align: center;">Montana Department of Transportation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONSTRUCTION MEMO</p>	Date Issued: May 11, 2009
	Date Effective: May 11, 2009
	Related Specifications: 104.02, 203.01.1
Subject: Borrow on Balanced Projects	

To: Distribution

From: Lisa Durbin, P.E., 
Construction Administration Services Engineer

Due to soil characteristics, varying shrink/swell factors, slope changes, subexcavation, bridge locations, and numerous other grading factors, it is not practical to have a project with a balance of zero. Designers make attempts to set the alignment and grade such that the job is as close to balanced as possible with practical balance points throughout the project limits.

The preferred grading project will have a small amount of excess excavation. However, if the project requires borrow, but is within three percent of the excavation quantity, the project will be considered to be “balanced” by the designer, especially since several of the aforementioned factors will vary during construction.

The following note will be on the summary frame:

Include the cost of the borrow quantity shown in the cost of other grading items.

This note indicates to the contractor that they must include the indicated quantity of borrow in the cost of the other grading items. The contractor is not expected to include the cost of borrow required above that quantity shown, which is unknown and/or unexpected. If the quantity in the plans overruns due to project conditions, a change order may be pursued. This is to eliminate unnecessary cost associated with the risk of the borrow item overrunning.

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